Amendment to the Claims

1. (*Canceled*).
2. (*Canceled*).
3. (*Canceled*).
4. (*Canceled*).
5. (*Canceled*).
6. (*Canceled*).
7. (*Canceled*).
8. (*Canceled*).
9. (*Canceled*).
10. (*Canceled*).
11. (*Canceled*).
12. (*Canceled*).
13. (*Canceled*).
14. (*Canceled*).
15. (*Canceled*).
16. (*Canceled*).
17. (*Canceled*).
18. (*Canceled*).
19. (*Canceled*).
20. (*Canceled*).
21. (*Canceled*).
22. (*Canceled*).
23. (*Canceled*).
24. (*Canceled*).
25. (*Canceled*).
26. (*Canceled*).
27. (*Currently amended*) A method of evaluating a test compound for treating sepsis syndrome, comprising:

(a) developing experimental animals modeling sepsis syndrome, comprising infecting experimental immunocompromised animals and control immunocompromised animals of the same species with a pathogen species ~~a pathogen species~~ capable of causing sepsis in the animal species, wherein the survival rate of the experimental immunocompromised infected animals ~~in the model system~~ is 10-90%;

(b) administering a test compound to the experimental animals;

(c) obtaining biological samples from the experimental and control animals at a selected timepoint following infection;

(d) measuring the amounts of a plurality of analytes in the biological samples; ~~and~~

(e) determining ~~the~~ scores for the biological samples from the experimental and control animals using a discrimination function for the animal species, wherein the discrimination function is 19(MCP-1-JE) + 27(IL-6) + 18(MCP-3) + 21(IL-3) + 18(MIP-1β) + 25(KC-GRO); and

~~whereby if~~ (f) evaluating the test compound ~~is determined to be effective in causing~~ for suitability as a candidate drug for treating sepsis syndrome based on its effectiveness in causing a statistically significant change in the score for the biological ~~sample~~ samples from the experimental animals compared to the score for the biological samples from the control animals~~, the test compound is a candidate drug for treating sepsis syndrome~~.

28. (*Original*). The method of claim 27 wherein said test compound is a modulator of vascular endothelial growth factor, monocyte chemoattractant protein 1, or peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma.

29. (*Original*) The method of claim 27, wherein said survival rate of immunocompromised infected animals in the model system is 30-70%.

30. (*Original*). The method of claim 27 wherein the test compound is a toll-like receptor (TLR) inhibitor.

31. (*Currently amended*). ~~The method of claim 27, further comprising administering an antibiotic to the animals~~ A method of evaluating a test compound for treating sepsis syndrome, comprising:

(a) developing experimental animals modeling sepsis syndrome, comprising infecting experimental immunocompromised animals and control immunocompromised animals of the same species with a pathogen species capable of causing sepsis in the animal species, wherein the survival rate of the experimental immunocompromised infected animals is 10-90%;

(b) administering a test compound to the experimental animals;

(c) obtaining biological samples from the experimental and control animals at a selected timepoint following infection;

(d) measuring the amounts of a plurality of analytes in the biological samples, wherein the analytes comprise Apolipoprotein A1, β2 Microglobulin, C Reactive Protein, D-dimer, EGF, Endothelin-1, Eotaxin, Factor VII, FGF-9, FGF-Basic, Fibrinogen, GCP-2, LIX, GM-CSF, Growth Hormone, GST, Haptoglobin, IFN-α, IgA, IL-10, IL-11, IL-12p70, IL-17, IL-18, IL-1α, IL-1ß, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, Insulin, IP-10, KC-GRO, Leptin, LIF, Lymphotactin, MCP-1-JE, MCP-3, MCP-5, M-CSF, MDC, MIP-1α, MIP-1ß, MIP-1α, MIP-2, MIP-3ß, Myoglobin, OSM, RANTES, SCF, SGOT, TIMP-1, Tissue Factor, TNF-α, TPO, VCAM-1, VEGF, and VWF;

(e) determining scores for the biological samples from the experimental and control animals using a discrimination function for the animal species; and

(f) evaluating the test compound for suitability as a candidate drug for treating sepsis syndrome based on its effectiveness in causing a statistically significant change in the score for the biological samples from the experimental animals compared to the score for the biological samples from the control animals.

32. (*Canceled*).

33. (*Canceled*).

34. (*Canceled*).

35. (*Canceled*).

36. (*Canceled*).

37. (*Canceled*).

38. (*Canceled*).

39. (*Canceled*).

40. (*Canceled*).

41. (*Canceled*).

42. (*Canceled*).

43. (*Canceled*).

44. (*Canceled*).